

# Glass Earth drill strikes gold

Gold exploration company Glass Earth Gold announced this week it had struck gold in its Wharekirauponga venture with Newmont Waihi Gold.

The site lies 10km from Newmont's Martha gold mine. While drilling in the central zone of the prospect, the mining company intercepted an interval of 9.7 metres containing 17.2 grams/tonne of gold and 24.2 g/t of silver.

Glass Earth head Simon Henderson said the new intercept was a highly encouraging display of Wharekirauponga's gold potential. "We had already found a broad intersection of over 150m of mineralisation across the central zone and to hit high grade intersections where we didn't expect adds real excitement to our exploration," he said.

The Glass Earth venture with

Newmont began with drilling exploration in March 2010.

Newmont Waihi Gold spokesman Kit Wilson said there were no plans to start mining at the site in the near future.

"I liken the find to a fishing trip - we have had a good nibble but are not sure it is hooked and it is certainly not in the boat."

He said there were no drilling rigs at the site at present and before a drilling rig was set up the company had to go through rigorous Department of Conservation processes. "When a site is chosen an independent consultant is sent to the area for a 24-hour period to check on what flora and fauna might be affected by a rig."

Mr Wilson said once a site was approved they were allowed a space of 150 square metres to work in.

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- Kit Wilson,  
Newmont Waihi Gold spokesman

"We fly everything in and the men stay on site in porta-huts and then everything is flown out again so there are no footprints left in the bush."

He said Newmont was interested in the site but it would be "a while" before any mining commenced, if it did at all.

"We've been exploring for 20 years and still what we have got is the mines in Waihi."

"So it's still a pretty high risk proposition; something which

people struggle with is even if we have a prospect or even a drill up there along the peninsula the odds are still reasonably long that it will turn into something substantial."

Meanwhile, Newmont Waihi Gold has yet to submit an application for a new mine under Waihi town.

The application is for Correnso mine, which will be under East Waihi and has an ore body beginning 130m beneath the surface and descending to 350m.

Mr Wilson said applications would not be submitted until April.

"We realise people want definite dates but in this business we are governed by analysis reports and until they are finalised we have to wait," he said.

Access to the Correnso mine

will use the Favona Underground Mine portal.

Modern practice is to start at depth and climb up the ore body, back filling as progress is made which means there are no underground voids that can later collapse, as has happened with historical Waihi mine workings.

Building 13.5km of truck-capable Correnso access tunnels is estimated to cost \$200 million which is in addition to the \$190 million a year the company says it costs to operate in Waihi.

The \$55-\$60 million exploration project beneath the 260m-deep Martha mine pit floor has received consent and is now expected to go to appeal.

Tunnelling will be on the eastern side of the pit and remain within the current licence boundaries.